

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL124
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Name of Service:	Jolly Tots
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Address of Service:	2 Blakestown Cottages, Clonsilla, Dublin 15, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D15 R70H
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Name of Registered Provider:	Niamh O'Reilly
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	16/11/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	20	PM	No.
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, 2 nd Floor, Unit 4/5, The Nexus Building, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Ballycoolin , Dublin 15 D15 CF9K
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Inspection undertaken by:	C. Harte
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable.
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Description of service

Jolly Tots is a sessional preschool service catering to children between 2 years 8 month and 5 years. The service operates from 9:30am-12:30pm each morning and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme. The premises is a prefabricated building consisting of one care room and a sanitary area. There is a large fully fenced outdoor area at the rear of the premises. The service caters to a maximum of 22 children at any one time.

Staffing

On the day of the inspection the registered provider was present with two staff members. All three adults were observed working directly with the children.

Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance, safety and premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform

decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

The inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.

The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises.

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-

- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,
- (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,
- (c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Compliance Information

- (1) (a) The service had a designated person in charge and named person to deputise as required.
- (b) The person in charge was present during the inspection.
- (2) The files of three adults were reviewed. The registered provider had completed the following checks:
 - (a) One validated written reference was available from a past employer.
 - (b) Five written validated references were available from a source other than a past employer.
 - (c) Completed Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of all three adults.
- (4) The three adults who worked directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth Affairs.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

(1) On the day of the inspection the registered provider ensured there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service.

(3) The adult to child ratios were correct when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service and throughout the inspection.

Age group	No. of children	Staff available	Staff required
3-5 years	20	3	2

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that an adequate supply of suitable materials and equipment were available to the children in the service. The following was observed:

- Toys and equipment were grouped into defined interest areas including sensory and messy play area, imagination area, reading and resting area, small world, art and crafts, and construction area. The defined areas contained a wide range of resources which promoted play and curiosity. For example, in the imaginative play area real food packaging and containers were available providing for real life

experiences. The art area had a range of materials for crafting and mark making supporting early literacy, expression, and creativity.

- The outdoor area was secure and provided a large natural play environment with a variety of equipment supporting play experiences and the development of motor skills. For example, seesaws, swings, sand pit, push bikes, mud kitchen, a music wall and fairy garden. Large trees and a small, covered rest area provided shade for sunny days.
- The tables and chairs observed in the care room were an appropriate size for the children attending and allowed them to engage in activities and mealtimes comfortably.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

A registered provider shall ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of a pre-school child attending the service and that the environment of the service is safe.

Compliance Information

General Safety:

- The service entrance was secure, and staff attended the door to allow access. This prevented unauthorised persons entering the service and also prevented children from leaving the service unsupervised.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of reach of children.
- Daily risk assessments were on display and completed up to date for the service including the sanitary area, care room and outdoor area.

Infection Control:

- Warm water and soap were available in sanitary area to support adequate hand hygiene.
- Tables were disinfected and children were observed washing their hands before lunchtime.
- Perishable food items were stored in the fridge.
- Cleaning records were on display in the service and completed up to date.

Administration of Medication:

- Health care plans were available for to children. Staff were knowledgeable of steps to be taken in to be taken in the event of an emergency and the location of medication.
- Medicine was kept in its original containers and clearly labelled.

Fire Safety:

- Fire evacuation routes were clear and unobstructed.
- Staff were aware of the evacuation procedure.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 25 - First aid

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children-

(a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and

(b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider provided evidence that a person trained in First Aid Responder training was available at all times to the children attending the service.

(2) (a) and (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and safely stored in a conspicuous position on the premises.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-
- (a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and
 - (b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) A record of fire drills was maintained on the premises. The record showed the last fire drill took place carried out on the 10th November 2023.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b) There was no maintenance record available for the smoke alarms.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Smoke alarms have been serviced by a fire company, 12th December 2023.

Preventive action: Smoke alarms will be serviced annually alongside fire extinguisher service.

Supporting documentation submitted

Certificate of smoke alarm service confirming working order.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive action taken by the registered provider has rectified the issue identified on inspection. Regulatory compliance has been met for Regulation 26.